

Appl. No. 10/752,933
Amdt. dated November 28, 2005
Reply to Office Action mailed July 28, 2005

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A system ~~for retracting opposed surfaces of a bone joint, said system~~ comprising:

a cannula having a passage to percutaneously access a site proximate ~~the~~ opposed surfaces of a bone joint; and

a retractor including a shaft and an inflatable bladder disposed at the end of the shaft, said retractor being introducable through the cannula passage so that the bladder may be positioned between the opposed surfaces, ~~wherein expansion of the inflatable bladder configured to separates~~ separate the opposed surfaces when expanded, thereby defining a working space therebetween.

Claims 2-3 (Canceled).

Claim 4 (Original): A system as in claim 1, wherein the inflatable bladder is eccentrically shaped or mounted on the shaft.

Claim 5 (Previously presented): A system as in claim 1, wherein the inflatable bladder does not substantially stretch when fully inflated.

Claim 6 (Previously presented): A system as in claim 1, wherein the inflatable bladder operates at inflation pressures from about 10 mmHg to about 1000 mmHg.

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Claim 7 (Previously presented): A system as in claim 1, wherein the inflatable bladder operates at inflation pressures from about 100 mmHg to about 1000 mmHg.

Claim 8 (Previously presented): A system as in claim 1, wherein the shaft is substantially rigid.

Claim 9 (Previously presented): A system as in claim 1, wherein the shaft is substantially flexible.

Claim 10 (Previously presented): A system as in any of claims 1 or 4-9, further comprising a viewing scope.

Claim 11 (Previously presented): A system as in claim 1, further comprising an interventional instrument.

Claim 12 (Previously presented): A system as in claim 1, wherein the opposed surfaces include bone tissue and soft tissue.